

Draft ND NPS Pollution Task Force March 10, 2016 Conference Call Minutes

Called to order by Karl Rockeman at 9:05 am.

Roll call for participants on the call was taken. See attendees list

A motion was made to approve the November 18, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

Greg Sandness provided an overview of the final project plan development process. He stated that several changes had been made to each project plan to address Task Force and Department comments. All the budgets were also revised to adjust to changes in the project plans and stay within the anticipated Section 319 budget for locally sponsored projects. Major project revisions summarized by Greg are as follows:

ND Stockmen's Association Environmental Services Program – Phase II

- Added information to Section 2.0 to better describe why the project is needed
- Clarified the number of systems installed with 319 and EQIP cost share
- Reduced the project length to three years, which reduced the total budget
- Added a map of completed projects

Ranchers Mentoring and Outreach Program

- Described how the Leopold Award will be used to promote the message of the program
- Omitted costs associated with mentor training
- Reorganized the tasks and objectives to clarify the roles of the mentors versus the project coordinator
- Reduced budgets for all the objectives and tasks

Spiritwood Lake Watershed

- Reduced staffing to a part-time position (1/2 FTE)
- Limited the focus for this phase to in-lake and near-lake pollutant sources (i.e., hypolimnetic drawdown system, septic systems, and the restoration of the natural outlet)
- Reduced the Section 319 budget for best management practices (BMP) in the watershed. Instead they will coordinate with NRCS and others to use other funding sources to implement BMP in the watershed.
- Revised all the tasks to better reflect the new focus for this phase

ND Livestock Pollution Prevention Program – Phase IV

- Reduced the project period by one year to reduce the budget
- Will consider applying for additional funding in 2016

Middle Sheyenne River Watershed

- Added aquatic life as a secondary beneficial use improvement goal
- Clarified the BMP goals for the project
- Added an additional project tour to Task 5
- Reduced the budget for BMP

ND Riparian Ecological Site Description Development Project – Phase II

- Added information to Section 2.0 to describe the project's connection to water quality management
- Clarified the project's training goals
- Reduced the Section 319 budgets for graduate students and faculty assistance

NPS BMP Team – Phase III

- Reduced the Section 319 budget to be more consistent with actual costs in recent years

Prairie Waters Education and Research Center

- Reduced the budget for staffing and support

Wild Rice River Restoration and Riparian Project – Phase II

- Revised task costs to be consistent with updated budget tables
- Limited the budget for the CCSP Demonstration Farm to 1 year
- Reduced the project period to three years
- Reduced the BMP budget

The Regional Environmental Education Series (TREES)

- Reduced the project budget

English Coulee Watershed

- Reduced staffing to a part-time position (1/2 FTE)
- Revised objective 2 to focus on achieving an improving trend for E. coli bacteria concentrations
- Clarified coordination efforts with the Upper Turtle River Watershed project
- Reduced the budgets for BMP and staffing

Powers Lake Watershed – Phase III

- Revised several tasks to clarify that the project will be focused on in-lake dredging and public education
- Attached AnnAGNPS maps
- Updated Milestone Tables
- Reduced the project period to three years to account for budget reductions

At the conclusion of the discussions, Greg Sandness indicated the final project plans will be forwarded to US EPA Region VIII for final review and approval.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Conference Call Attendees

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